The student voice of St. Michael's College

the DEFENDER

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Which band would you like to see reunite?
p. 4

Obama seeks authorization for military force against Islamic State

By Jim Merkel III
Staff Writer

On Feb. 11, President Obama made the decision to request an authorization for the use of military force (AUMF) from Congress as part of his strategy to combat the militant group called the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS) that has taken over large swathes of Iraq and Syria as well as parts of Libya.

Airstrikes have been conducted by the U.S. and its coalition allies against ISIS in Iraq since last summer and in Syria since the fall, but this marks the first time that Obama has requested an AUMF for the purpose. Congress is going to debate whether or not to deliver the president the authorization he has requested.

The Department of Defense (DoD) has expressed support for the president's request, with then Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel calling for Congress to approve it in a press release issued the day of the president's address.

This AUMF "would provide an important signal of support to DoD personnel, of commitment to our partners, and of resolve to ISIL," Hagel said, using the Obama administration's preferred acronym for the militant group.

"Given the nature of our adversary and the complexity of our ongoing campaign, I urge Congress to avoid any undue restraints on the commander-in-chief's choices in the effort to degrade and ultimately defeat ISIL," Hagel said. "DoD personnel are working each day–with 60 coalition partners–in our campaign against ISIL."

"We want Congress' full, bipartisan support in this fight because the country is stronger when both parties and both branches of government stand and work together," Hagel added.

However, John Hughes, professor of political science at St. Michael's, expressed concerns about the wording of the president's proposed AUMF and the consequences it may have as a result.

"This AUMF has some vague areas in it, some areas that are controversial," Hughes said. "It says the president 'is authorized, subject to...limitations... to use the Armed Forces of the United States as he determines to be necessary and appropriate against ISIL or associated persons and forces.' What are 'associated persons and forces'? Does that mean the world? Anyone who shares an Islamist ideology? We don't know."

Hughes also mentioned a similarity from the second Bush administration's legislation.

"This bears a resemblance to another vague quote from the Afghanistan AUMF, which says that 'the president is authorized to use all necessary and appropriate force against those nations, organizations or persons' he determined to have planned, authorized or permitted the attacks of Sept. 11," Hughes said. "'Use all necessary and appropriate force'—that's so open-ended!"

According to Hughes, the U.S. has used the phrasing of the AUMF to justify Guantanamo Bay, unlimited detentions, torture and drone attacks. These actions occur not only in Afghanistan but also in Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia, countries "we're at least legally at peace with," Hughes said. He claims the problems with these authorizations of military force have been their vagueness.

"Everything depends on what the AUMF authorizes the president to do," said Daniel O'Neil, professor of Middle Eastern history at St. Michael's. "As for the coalition, it ultimately depends on what they consider to be a 'victory' over Da'ish. That's something you have to consider in every military conflict."

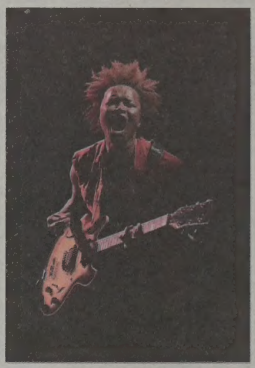
"Da'ish" is the term for ISIS preferred by Arab nations, according to O'Neil.

"The effects of this AUMF will ultimately depend upon what powers are granted to the president and what the president's strategy is," O'Neil said.

"The AUMF seems too weak in terms of its long-term plan," said Scot Masingill, '15. "The issue we've had lately with how our politicians have gone about responding to threats such as ISIS is that they talk about near-future plans–a three-year plan is what the president's talking about now–but things like this never take three years, they never go as planned, you need to have policies in place in case things go farther."

See **ISIS**, page 3

The resurrection of Death



PHOTOS BY CONNOR VANDAGRIFF

Clockwise from top left: Founding Hackney brothers, Bobby Sr. (bass guitar) and Dannis Hackney (drums) perform at the MainStage at the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts on Feb. 13; Anita Lofton, guitarist for Oakland-based act Sistas In The Pit opens for Rough Francis; the Flynn marquee shines with "A Band Called Death with Rough Francis 13" celebrating the Burlington chapter of the Death story; Rough Francis, opening act formed by Bobby Hackney Sr.'s sons Urian, Julian and Bobby Hackney Jr., bassist Steven Hazen Williams, and guitarist Paul Comegno open for Death. ***Read Death's story on page 5.***

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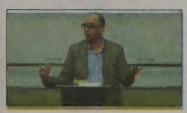

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Alabama judge fights same-sex marriage ruling

By Patricia J. Gerbis
Staff Writer

A federal ruling was made to allow same-sex marriage in Alabama on Feb. 4. Alabama Chief Justice Roy S. Moore responded by issuing a statement saying that state judges should not issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

Although most Alabama counties have agreed to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, there is still a conflict between the state and federal courts.

Not unlike Vermont's initial confrontation in 2000 for gay and lesbian marriage rights and benefits came in the Baker vs. Vermont case, which ensured the rights and benefits of marriage to same-sex couples through a civil union. This was the first time that these rights had been given to same-sex couples in the United States.

According to the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment of the Constitution, "No State shall deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

"States can't have rights, people have rights," said John Hughes, a political science professor at St. Michael's College. "States have sovereignty, they have the ability to govern. They cannot govern contrary to the Constitution. We have not yet decided if the Equal Protection Clause guarantees equal access to marriage for same sex couples, but if that decision is made then Alabama is bound by it, and so is everybody else."

> **States can't have rights, people have rights. States have sovereignty, they have the ability to govern. They cannot govern contrary to the Constitution.**
>
> -John Hughes

Moore's choice to not allow same-sex marriage directly disobeys the Federal District Court's decision and the Constitution's offer of the equal protection under the laws. If the Supreme Court rules in favor of same-sex marriage, Alabama will be forced to accept its ruling.

"Moore argues that the United States is a Christian nation founded on Christian principles" Hughes said.

The Constitution states in the First Amendment that, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion." This passage makes it clear that religion should not be involved in politics.

Christian religious beliefs are a strong part of the culture for Alabama residents.

"Being in the south, church is a big component of a lot of people's lives," said Brittany Walker, University of Alabama student. "They take church really seriously."

"I think people get confused about the idea of civil marriage, which is getting the legal rights, benefits, and responsibilities of marriage, and making those available to gay and lesbian couples," said Peter Harrigan, head of the theater department at St. Michael's college. "Then there's the idea of church marriage, and lots of people choose to have big church marriages and that's a great thing. I think it's important to separate civil versus religious."

Same-sex couples are not trying to gain religious status by being married, they want to gain the government benefits and legal rights that come along with legal marriage.

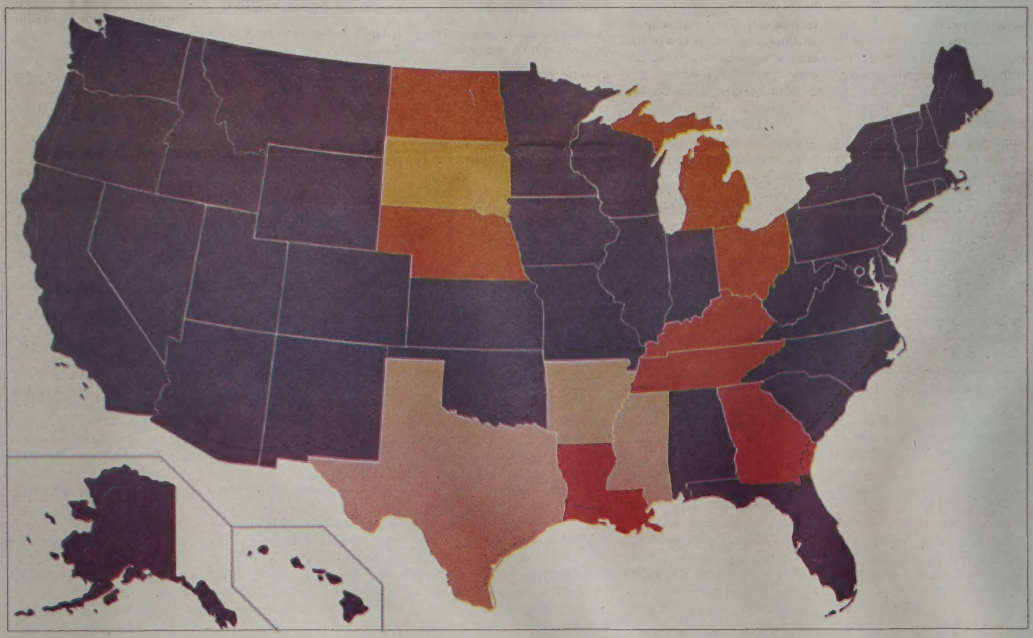
Harrigan and his partner were involved in the Baker vs. Vermont case.

"There were three couples, two lesbian couples and us, and the Vermont Supreme Court said, yes we think you deserve these rights and benefits," Harrigan said. "At the time, there was not enough support from the legislature or from the citizens to go for marriage, so they came up with something called a civil union. You could be in a civil union and get legal protections that you couldn't get before that."

This was the first time any state had given same-sex couples marriage rights.

"The lawsuit that we filed was asking the state to include us in the marriage statutes," said Harrigan. "There's something in Vermont called the Common Benefit Clause, that is unique to Vermont, that says if you provide a right or benefit to one group of people than you have to provide it to everyone, so that is what our lawsuit was hinged on."

The Common Benefit Clause can be compared to the equal protection clause, because they both guarantee that the rights of all individuals are protected under the constitution. Both of these clauses ensure that the citizens of the United States are treated equally under the law regardless of who they choose to marry.



MAP AND INFORMATION FROM WIKIPEDIA

Texas and South Dakota are a few of many states that have yet to allow same-sex marriage in the U.S. Despite this, many southern states including Florida and South Carolina have legalized same-sex marriage. Alabama has also legalized same-sex marriage, but marriage licenses are not being issued in certain counties within the state in response to Chief Justice Roy S. Moore's statement against a federal ruling.

- Same-sex marriage legal
- Same-sex marriage not prohibited or recognized
- Same-sex marriage ban overturned, decision stayed indefinitely
- Same-sex marriage banned

Cormier retires after 33 years at St. Michael's

By Olivia Caravella
Staff Writer

The admired President's Office, often quiet and calm, is filled with brightness and charm by the gracious Marilyn Cormier.

After 33 years as director of government and community relations and secretary of the board of trustees at St. Michael's, Cormier announced her resignation on Feb. 11. Being involved in many different aspects of the St. Michael's community will not be the only thing Cormier will be commemorated for.

Cormier has a great passion for the student body and truly loves them, easily seen on her face as soon as St. Michael's students are mentioned.

This love is clearly reciprocated: she has received the Class Appreciation award and the Gerald DuPoint award, which is given to people who exemplify the ideals of courage, vision, devotion and faith upon which St. Michael's was founded. Cormier cannot get enough of the student's enthusiasm and energy.

"Even when they bug you they are great," Cormier said. "It keeps me young."

Cormier works closely with the senior class, mostly dealing with details concerning commencement.

"The students brighten her day; she has very close relationships with many colleagues on the campus, but it's the students that you can just see her eyes light up when she connects with them," said Tara Arcury, assistant to the president, who has known Cormier since 2001.

Cormier came to the U.S. from Sri Lanka, and began working at St. Michaels soon after. She started her St. Michael's journey in 1982 as the executive secretary to the vice president of Academic Affairs. She soon took over the role of assistant to the president, and in 2000 moved to her current position.

"Stellar" is the adjective Arcury chose to use when describing Cormier's work ethic.

"She is so devoted to the college, its mission and its success and works very hard," Arcury said.

"No two days are the same," said Cormier about her work life.

"I prepare the board meetings, and I get the board ready-whatever the board needs I get done," Cormier said.

In addition to being the liaison between St. Michael's and the board of trustees, she also represents President Neuhauser to St. Michael's and the external community as director of government and community relations.

"I have to keep the college in good relationships with all governmental relations," Cormier said.

She is also always up for a challenge. She is known to give her best effort to a task, no matter how demanding. She believes attaining that goal is one of the most rewarding aspects of her job.

Cormier does admit that her job gets challenging.

"It is difficult to always keep in mind that it is not about you, you always have to keep the college in mind," Cormier said.

Morgan Begos, president of the class of 2015, said Cormier always keeps the college in mind.

"She works tirelessly on countless events, all in an extremely positive manner," Begos said. "It's really clear that she loves the students she works with as well as the St. Michael's community."

PHOTO BY CONNOR VANDAGRIFF

Marilyn Cormier announced her resignation on Feb. 11 and will be retiring after 33 years of working in various positions at St. Michael's College.

Cormier has made many lasting relationships throughout her time at St. Michaels and has worked directly with three presidents of the college. She is constantly faced with the task of positively representing the college, students, the board of trustees and the Edmundites.

"She creates lasting relationships," Arcucy said. "I can't even count how many weddings of alumni she goes to!"

One of the greatest moments Cormier experienced here at St. Michael's was early in her career, when she was in the hospital expecting her first child. At that time, the St. Michael's community was her only family here.

"They all came, and I mean from every nook and cranny, everyone came and visited," Cormier said. "It was all of them supporting me. So to leave this place is going to be really, really hard; all of them are family."

In April, Cormier will move to Sumter County, Florida to be closer to her family.

"It will be very hard to leave this community, St. Michael's is family in the true sense," Cormier said.

ISIS:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"You also need to take a step back as president and have your cabinet members step back and allow the people who we hire and we train to fight our nation's enemies to do so," Masingill added. "We need to put the power back in their hands."

Obama has stated his opposition of the use of ground forces against ISIS, noting in his address that his AUMF "does not call for the deployment of U.S. ground combat forces to Iraq or Syria" and that "it is not the authorization of another ground war, like Afghanistan or Iraq."

"However, this is not entirely clear," Hughes said. "The AUMF says 'the authority granted in subsection (a) does not authorize the use of the United States Armed Forces in enduring offensive ground combat operations,'" Hughes said. "'Enduring offensive military operations'- well, what's an 'enduring' military offensive operation? Can he send them in for a little quick raid, something that's not going to be 'enduring'?"

"As far as the ground fighting is going, the combat is mostly being done by Middle Eastern forces– the Iraqi army, Kurdish militias, etc.," O'Neil said. "The strict interpretation of Islam that Da'ish promotes is rejected by the vast majority of the world's Muslims, and the Arab participation in the coalition and the Iranian involvement against the militant group is evidence of this."

WHITEHOUSE.GOV

On Feb. 11, President Barack Obama addressed the nation explaining the details of the authorization for use of military force requested by his administration. He was joined in his address by (from left) Vice President Joe Biden, Secretary of State John Kerry and then Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel.

Regarding the debate in Congress, Hughes noted that both parties have concerns regarding the AUMF.

"The Republicans think this is too constrictive; they want something more open-ended," Hughes said. "The Democrats, meanwhile, want to tighten the language and make it less vague."

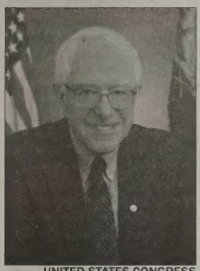
However, Hughes also expressed his satisfaction that Congress is debating the AUMF.

"Congress, under the Constitution, declares war, and since World War II, if not before, they have been frankly negligent when it comes to this, letting the president do whatever he wants," Hughes said. "I'm delighted that Congress is finally going to have a debate."

FEATURES

Sanders' speech calls students to action

Senator focuses on affordable education, divestment and job creation



UNITED STATES CONGRESS

Sen. Bernie Sanders in 2007, the year he assumed office. Sanders is an independent, and spoke to a packed auditorium Feb. 17 at the University of Vermont, where he encouraged college students to become more involved in politics.

By Gabrielle Kondracki
Staff Writer

"I hope that maybe we'll spend 1/10 of the time talking about the important issues facing America as we do talking about the Super Bowl," said U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders as he addressed the public about affordable education, big money in politics, climate change and women's rights at a University of Vermont UVM) town hall meeting held at the Davis Center Feb. 17.

Sanders, a former Burlington mayor, informed many on the current rising issues surrounding democratic America, and his words were applicable to students leaving college in future years.

"Change can happen and does happen when a whole bunch of people stand up and fight for it," Sanders said.

As tuition rises in many educational institutions, it becomes harder for the diminishing middle class to afford a college education. With the wealthiest Americans and big name corporations doing extremely well, little room is left for a strong middle class to survive. And the only way to expand this middle class, according to Sanders, is to give every young American access to higher education.

"It is absurd that a large number of low income citizens cannot go to college simply because they cannot afford it," Sanders said. "America should want all of its citizens to be educated because it is good for the country."

The harsh reality of this unaffordable tuition comes from conservative ideology, Sanders said. Federal and state governments are cutting back on what they allot for education, and in return students have to pick up the cost.

Sanders said that he believes that in order to have a strong economy, America needs an educated population. A short-term plan to give the middle class access to education was brought up when addressing Obama's current plan to make two years of community college free.

"We need to expand on this idea, and apply it to every public university in America," Sanders said.

Talking long-term plans, America needs to move towards making all four years of college free. Sanders believes this would be a serious stride in helping our economy.

When questioned about how America could afford free education, the senator explained that if the government takes only $11 billion out of the $600 billion it gives to the military budget, with states matching that amount, tuition can be reduced by 1/3 of what it is presently.

"Demanding a two percent budget cut in the $600 billion given to the military I think could definitely happen if enough people work towards it," said Connor Pellitier, '16, an environmental studies major at UVM. "Sanders is great, he doesn't lie about promising things; it all stems from the people who are willing to fight for it."

Sanders said that it is of the upmost importance that the younger generation gets involved in politics because it is up to the rising generation to demand these changes.

"We need a political revolution," Sanders said.

Last year, 63 percent of Americans did not vote and from that, 80 percent of the younger generation, predominantly at the college level, did not vote. Sanders said he believed that to be a huge problem.

"Understanding everything these guys talk about is very important," Sanders said, in reference to younger voters.

Sanders also explained a progressive agenda, addressing not only the efforts to make higher education free, but topics that he said would lead to bettering the middle class as a whole.

He articulated that the government needs to make creating jobs and raising wages to a living wage a priority. Improving infrastructure would be one way of doing this. Sanders said that move alone would create over 13 million jobs for currently unemployed people.

"All the problems that we face are created by humans making bad policies," Sanders said when addressing the topic of climate issues and women's rights.

He explained that America has the knowledge and the resources to begin to fix the current environmental harm that is presently in place. It is just a matter of enforcing the policy to do so.

"It was admirable to hear his support on divesting from fossil fuels," said Savannah Clinton, '16, an environmental studies major at St. Michael's. "It's inspiring to have the political support and voice of someone like Senator Sanders."

> **"Embrace democracy in its fullest form and do everything you can to make sure this country fulfills its potential."**
>
> **- Sen. Bernie Sanders**

Clinton runs the Divestment Campaign at St. Michael's along with other students on campus, and brought students together at a rally in support of divesting from fossil fuels on Feb. 13.

"It's frustrating that there is a stigma projected on environmentalists that we're tree-hugging hippies, but both Sanders and my vision is for a just economic, social, gender and environmental society, and because of that, we're viewed as radical and unrealistic by the majority."

Sanders also focused on paid equity. As of today, women are paid 78 cents to the dollar compared with men, and Sanders said that it is necessary to work towards equal pay for equal work.

Recognizing that this agenda is no cheap fare, Sanders pointed out that America needs to be aware of the growing wealth going to the wealthiest one percent of Americans.

"The top one percent are going to have to start paying their fair share of taxes," Sanders said.

In his comments on the one out of every four large corporations who pay nothing in federal taxes, Sanders exposed the $100 billion a year that is being withheld from the rest of America. And demanding a real tax reform, forcing the one percent to pay what they are required to, will benefit the 99 percent majority.

Sanders believes that everything on his agenda is attainable. The only obstacle to overcome in moving towards these goals is to get the younger generation, the people who are going to be affected most if change does not happen, involved in the process.

"I wish I could tell you my generation left this country in a better place, but it hasn't. And now your job is to start thinking hard about these issues," Sanders said. "Embrace democracy in its fullest form and do everything you can to make sure this country fulfills its potential."

Campus SPEAKS

Which band would you like to see reunite?

"Jackson Five."
Henderson Charles, '16

"No Doubt."
Jason Drapinski, '18

"Destiny's Child."
Mike McCarthy, '17

"Old Metallica."
George Dragonetti, '17

"Breaking Benjamin."
Matt Yesair, '18

"Rage Against the Machine."
Sean Faust, '16

"*NSYNC."
Semi Durowoju, '16

"Nirvana."
Justin Fillion, '18

Death makes return musical appearance

Detroit-born band's dream lives on almost 40 years after arrival in Vermont

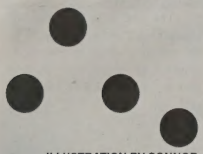


ILLUSTRATION BY CONNOR VANDAGRIFF

According to Bobby Hackney Sr., founding member of Death, the band's logo, recreated above, is composed of three dots in a triangular position symbolizing the elements of spirituality, mentality and physicality, with the fourth dot representing God.

By Connor Vandagriff
Photo/Multimedia Editor

It was remarkably frigid on the evening of Friday the 13th outside of the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts in Burlington. The glowing marquee read, "A Band Called Death with Rough Francis 13."

As concertgoers slowly filled the theater, it became apparent that what would soon be performed right before our eyes would mark rock and roll history forever: the anniversary of Death's arrival in Vermont in 1977.

Emerging during the early 1970s Detroit "Motown time," as Bobby Hackney put it, was Death, a punk group formed by brothers David, Dannis and Bobby Hackney.

The three found themselves amid a time when white audiences dominated rock and roll shows, drooling over acts like Bob Seger and The Who's Pete Townshend's guitar licks, while black audiences listened to rhythm and blues acts like Earth, Wind, and Fire. Unusually, the three African American brothers played punk.

Despite the band's originally-infused music inspired by artists like Jimi Hendrix, Alice Cooper and The Who, David Hackney, the oldest brother, led the band in the direction of harder rock, gradually becoming more hardcore, taking on characteristics of prototypical punk rock as the band adopted their fateful name: Death.

They would become the first African American group to play punk before punk was punk.

"All of our lives, we grew up with this idea that we had to back up our brother, [David]," wrote Bobby Hackney in an email, recalling how David came up with the idea behind the name Death and the logo comprised of four dots: three in the shape of a triangle, and another off the lower right dot–a concept David called the three elements of life.

"Each dot represents a single element: spiritual, mental and physical," Bobby said. "The fourth dot represents the guiding spirit that oversees all the elements combined: God."

Remarkably, the brothers secured a recording contract with their first demo tapes that would compile their debut full-length album, "…For the World To See," recorded in a Motor City studio in 1975.

Ironically, the music world never received the album in that incarnation, since their representatives failed to sell the tapes to a distribution company.

Despite receiving countless rejections from various record labels due to the intimidating nature of the name Death, Arista Records' Clive Davis offered to release the master tapes, but only if the band changed their name, which David refused to do.

Bobby recalled David telling his brothers, "If we give them the name of our band, we might as well give them everything else," as stated in the Hollywood Reporter.

"We are fighting to maintain our identity," proclaimed Dannis in the 2012 documentary "A Band Called Death," directed by Burlington College alumni Mark Covino and Jeff Howlett, which depicted the nostalgic, yet hopeful story of the band called Death.

With their contract cancelled, the brothers found themselves broke, and forced to sell off their instruments. At the same time, the Hackneys self-distributed singles on 45s, despite radio stations overlooking them.

Death released the single, "Politicians In My Eyes" / "Keep On Knocking" in the fall of 1976 in Detroit, and by then corporate radio had taken over and it was near impossible to get air play on local rock radio. By February of 1977, brothers David, Dannis and Bobby relocated from Detroit to Vermont, and released two albums and a single as the gospel rock group The 4th Movement.

As David became increasingly homesick, he moved back to Detroit in 1981, and he handed over the Death master tapes to Bobby, telling him that one-day, somebody would come looking for them.

Upon David's return to Detroit, Bobby and Dannis Hackney were left as a bass and drum duo. They became immediately attracted to reggae music, forming the successful reggae band, Lambsbread, which helped to establish the reggae music scene in New England. The band was also instrumental in helping to establish the legendary annual Vermont Reggae Festival.

During this time in Detroit, while plagued by his demons, David succumbed to advancing alcoholism and smoking, developing lung cancer. He died in 2000.

The Hackneys went on to have children, yet never shared the details of their Death experience with their kids.

"We had moved on in our lives and thought that chapter was over because we went through so much rejection with that music," Bobby said in an interview with the New York Times in 2009. "We just didn't want to relive it, and I especially didn't want to relive it again with my children."

The article titled "This Band Was Punk Before Punk Was Punk," reported that son of Bobby Hackney Sr., Julian Hackney, heard Death's single at an underground party in San Francisco, and recognized his father's voice. Soon after, Bobby Jr. did a Google search, and found the gold: Death's only release. It was through what Bobby Sr. called a "huge underground demand" that the Death single was brought to the spotlight.

The three sons of Bobby Hackney Sr., Julian, Urian, and Bobby Jr., went on to form a band called Rough Francis, covering the songs of Death after discovering the old recordings with friends Dylan Giambatista, Paul Comegno and Steve Williams.

"[Rough Francis] is unleashed Punk Rock Royalty," said Ieela Grant, drummer for the opening act at the Flynn, Sistas In The Pit. "I have got so much love and respect for those guys. All of them have so much talent and energy."

In 2009, Drag City Records released all seven Death songs from their 1975 United Sound sessions on CD and LP under the title "...For the Whole World to See," and in September 2009, Death's resurgence included three shows with original members Bobby and Dannis Hackney, and Lambsbread guitarist Bobbie Duncan taking the place of the late David Hackney.

"We had the master tapes in our own possession since we came from Detroit, and our brother David had brought extra tapes from Detroit before he died," said Bobby who remembered David telling the brothers that one day the world would come looking for the Death tapes, and he was right.

Since embarking on Death's resurgence tour, the band has received long overdue recognition. Though physically absent, David's presence is always felt when playing music, Bobby told the audience at Friday's show at the Flynn, which also featured Oakland-based act Sistas In The Pit and Rough Francis, who performed original tunes.

"The reception from the crowd was breathtaking during and after the show," wrote Shelley Doty, guitarist for Sistas In The Pit, in an email. "Early in the set I knew we were on a spectacular ride with the audience when I heard audible 'whoo's!' from the crowd during a solo. Here we were, coming to a town where no one knew us, and in fact may not have even known we were on the bill."

In between opening acts, "A Band Called Death" directors Covino and Howlett presented unreleased scenes from the making of the film.

Death is currently writing and recording new music, having just released their first single this year since 1976, "Relief" / "Story of The World" off their "N.E.W." album set to release in April.

"I know that if we are all still going, we'll be playing rock and roll and whatever inspires us to create and perform music," Bobby Sr. said.

During Friday's show at the Flynn, he recalled that upon Death's arrival in Vermont as the three strolled along Main Street, David had pointed toward the marquee of the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, and said that, "one day we'd see our name up on there."

And now Death performs as David had wanted: for the whole world to see.

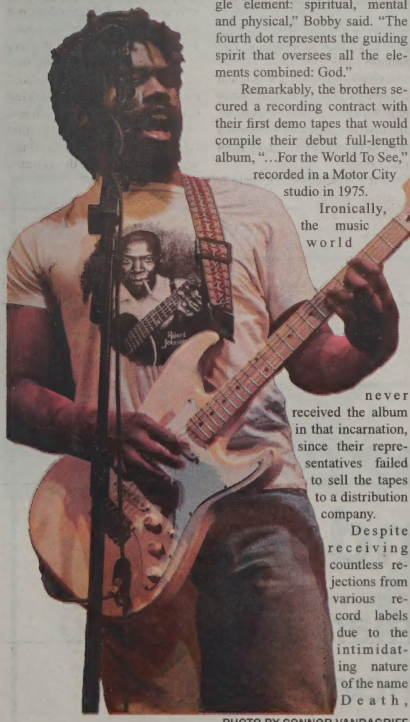


PHOTO BY CONNOR VANDAGRIFF

Julian Hackney of Rough Francis performs with his band Feb. 13 at the Flynn Center for Performing Arts in Burlington. Julian is one of the sonsw of Bobby Hackney Sr., one of the founding members of the band Death.

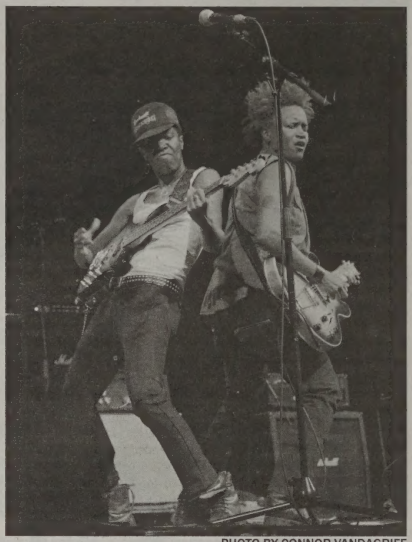


PHOTO BY CONNOR VANDAGRIFF

Kofy Brown and Anita Lofton of opening act Sistas in the Pit rock out at the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts in Burlington Feb. 13. Sistas in the Pit hail from Oakland, Ca.

Climate change threatens New England ski resorts

A snowy season may become the exception to a new norm for skiiers

DEFENDER ARCHIVES

A sparse layer of snow covers the ground beneath the Sterling lift at Smuggler's Notch Resort. Despite heavy snowfall this season, ski resorts face a troubling future due to climate change. Less natural snowfall means ski resorts will need to significantly increase their snowmaking.

By Mitch Yahna
Staff Writer

"This year in comparison to the past years we have been here, we definitely have the most snow right now," George Kokoefer, '15 said "And it has been the most consistent."

With the abundance of snow that has piled up, skiers and snowboarders on campus are thrilled with the conditions on the mountains, though frigid temperatures are keeping some off the hill.

Kokoefer and Peyton O'Connor, '15, office members of ShredMC, the campus ski and snowboard club, agree that this year has brought some of the best skiing conditions they have seen while at school.

In addition, ShredMC has been having a successful year with high numbers of members attending club events and getting out on the slopes.

Though this winter has been a record breaker, many students do not realize that climate change, on a broad spectrum, will cause warmer weather for New England in the years to come. This could pose a threat to the beloved ski areas of the east coast.

In a New York Times article, Daniel Scott, director of the Interdisciplinary Center on Climate Change at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, predicted that, "Under certain warming forecasts, more than half of the 103 ski resorts in the Northeast will not be able to maintain a 100-day season by 2039."

This does not bode well for the skiers of New England.

Laura Beaudin, St. Michael's College alumna and current professor of economics at Bryant University, spoke Friday at St. Michael's. She is interested to see what ski areas are doing to fight climate change and survive against increasingly higher temperatures.

According to Beaudin, New England has lost about 60 percent of its ski areas since 1970, and this percentage is only going to rise from here.

Beaudin has been working to discover what these surviving ski areas have been doing to make a name for themselves and remain popular and profitable. She looks at four different factors when determining a ski area's chance of survival: investment decisions, location, weather and characteristics of the resort.

Investment decisions include things such as bigger and better lodging, year-round adventurous family activities and snowmaking.

According to Beaudin's studies, this is the most important factor to a ski mountain's survival. From what she has observed, resorts that are putting money towards new snow making technologies and upgrading their lift services are able to draw crowds of skiiers from their competitors.

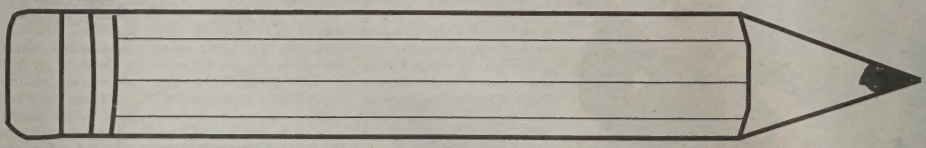
What a ski resort chooses to invest in depends heavily on what sort of weather the mountain sees, and the characteristics of the mountain and resort. Temperature and how much annual snowfall a mountain gets are important in the decision of where to put money. Terrain types, the vertical drop, numbers of lifts and trails are also key components that affect how a resport spends its money.

The final factor in determining how ski areas will survive the recent changes in climate is where they are located. Resorts that are in more urban locations and closer to cities have less area to expand, giving competing resorts in more rural areas an edge. The resorts in rural areas have more land to cut new trails and open new sections of the mountain.

During the 2014-2015 season thus far, the majority of ski resorts in Vermont have seen close to a total of 80 inches.Though this copious amount of snow may seem to conflict with Beaudin's arguments, the trend of annual snowfall is dropping year after year, and ski areas are beefing themselves up to hold on to their customers.

O'Connor, along with other ShredMC members, has noticed Stowe's increased efforts in snowmaking. With more snow in the places it is needed, Stowe park staff were able to finish building their medium and large terrain parks a month earlier than in previous seasons. This is likely to cause excitement in the freestyle community of skiing and help draw in more customers.

While this could be one of the best winters that New England sees for a long time, skiiers and boarders may see changes at their favorite resorts in future years, as the industry tries to stay ahead of troublesome trends.



Interested in reporting for The Defender?

Contact Cara Chapman at cchapman2@mail.smcvt.edu

PHOTOS BY SARAH HASELTON AND JOSEPH HUMES

NYU journalism professor and "PressThink" blogger Jay Rosen speaks on Feb. 11 about the status of media today and the lasting importance of professional journalism.

Why do we need professional journalists?

NYU critic and professor addresses today's evolving world of media

By Sarah Haselton and Joseph Humes

"The first reason why we need professional journalists can be summed up in one word: verification," said Jay Rosen, a media critic and New York University journalism professor.

Rosen came to St. Michael's and addressed the topic, "Why do we need 'professional' journalists if anyone can report on the news?" in a discussion on Feb. 11.

With social media, any person can post a picture, video or line of text, giving the world a first-hand glimpse of what is going on at any time, in any place.

These "citizen journalists" are an essential piece of the information-gathering puzzle, Rosen argued but cannot always be trusted for fact-checking or concrete verification.

To Rosen, professional journalists are essential as they are the ones who weed through the masses of stories, rumors and statements to determine what's true and how we know it's true.

"Jay has an incredible mind and an incredible following," said Mike Donoghue, a Burlington Free Press journalist and adjunct professor at St. Michael's College. "It's fascinating to see how he thinks the media operates."

In his talk, Rosen assessed news and information in the 21st century and analyzed the importance of professional journalists in today's ever-changing media world.

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ARTS & LIFESTYLE

SMC Style FILES

this week with Juliana Summers

This week, we're taking SMC Style Files in a slightly different direction. We've covered ponchos, hats, backpacks, joggers and even Birkenstocks this year — so now, let's get personal.

No, I'm not referring to myself. This week, we're going to talk about one of the leading fashion icons in the industry. Ever heard of Chiara Ferragni? Well now you have.

Followers of fashion blogs and the rest of the population alike — take note! This 27-year-old Italian blogger, the voice behind The Blonde Salad, has her hand in the industry in a very big way.

But before the nitty-gritty details, let's talk style. Chiara is fairly "eccentric," if you will, which is likely one of the reasons behind her vast following—she has more than three million followers on Instagram alone. Vibrant, multicolored fur coats? Check. Winking-eye-embellished apparel? Double check. Ski goggles and a Valentino camo coat? Been there, done that.

Trust me, I couldn't make this stuff up.

She stands out, and in an overly-saturated fashion blogosphere, that's her selling point. But hey, there's a lot to admire; Chiara is an icon for personal expression and styling that breaks the mold.

Intentional or not, her fearless approach towards mixing and matching is going down in the books, and is something that we can all pull from in our own style choices (a.k.a. be yourself, "you do you" — you get the point).

This Italian powerhouse is a true game-changer. This year she made Forbes' top 30 under 30 for Art & Style—recognized for being on track to take in $8 million in revenue in 2015.

How the hell does she do it?

Well first, I urge you to check out her work—The Blonde Salad blog, @ChiaraFerragni on Instagram and her shoe line, The Chiara Ferragni Collection, which accounts for 70 percent of her revenue.

Back to the point at hand: Chiara built her empire on the success of her blog, started in 2009 as her own online style diary. Since then, she has been featured in leading ad campaigns, collaborated with major designers, published her own book in Italian, under the name The Blonde Salad, and made her blog into its own brand, with a crew of 11 people behind its expansive influence.

Back to the shoe line, as mentioned above. Definitive of her quirky style, Chiara's line includes a variety of loafers, slip-ons, espadrilles and more, all with a shimmering twist. Almost every pair is decked out with full-on glitter coverage, winking eyes or alternative eye-catching image embellishments.

My personal favorite? The iridescent fuchsia loafers with a comic adornment of a burger and fries on each shoe. But hey, the acid-wash denim slip-ons with multiple fast food comic embroideries are also pretty fantastic.

Yet again, I can't make this stuff up. So, you might very well be thinking, why would I follow someone like Chiara? I mean, she wears ski goggles to New York Fashion Week, for crying out loud. Well, I'm here to tell you that yes, her personal style is risky (hence her great success) and often not very obtainable (hello there, college budget), but in total, she is an industry visionary.

If nothing else, take the entertainment factor and work it into your own expression — don't be afraid to break the mold!

#TheBlondeSaladNeverStops

PHOTOS FROM @CHIARAFERRAGNI ON INSTAGRAM

Left: Chiara Ferragni gives a sneak peek of a "flirting eye tshirt" from her new Chiara Ferragni Collection.
Center: Ferragni sports a Markus Lupfer sweater in New York City Feb. 15.
Below: Ferragni shows off a new pair of slippers from her new Chiara Ferragni Collection.

Events Calendar

Wednesday 25	Thursday 26	Friday 27	Saturday 28	Sunday 1
Soryu Forall: Teaching Mindfulness to Young People Using Technology St. Edmund's Hall 102, 5 p.m. **Knitters and Needleworkers** Burnham Memorial Library, 6-8 p.m.	**Speaker: Herman Boone, Remember the Titans Coach** McCarthy Arts Center, 6 p.m. **Film Screening: La Cour de Babel** Cheray 101, 7 p.m.	**Laura Beaudin: Climate Change and the Vermont Ski Industry** Farrell Room, 3 p.m. **Dog Communication in the Human World** South Burlington City Hall, 7 p.m.	**R.I.P.P.E.D** North End Studio A, Burington 9-10 a.m. **Maker Market** Generator, Burlington 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	**Nutrition Kitchen: Cooking With Quinoa & Teff** McClure Multigenerational Center, 12:30-2:30 p.m. **Bryce Dance Co. & Toby MacNutt** FlynnSpace, 2 p.m.
Monday 2	**Tuesday 3**	**Wednesday 4**	**Thursday 5**	**Friday 6**
Mindfulness & Self-Compassion Peace and Justice Center 6:30 p.m. **Salsa-Dancing Mondays** North End Studio A, 7 p.m.	**Creative Nonfiction Workshop** Burnham Memorial Library, 6-7:45 p.m. **Introduction to Tribal Belly Dance** Sacred Mountain Studio, 6:45 p.m.	**Backyard Urban Sugaring** City Market, 5:30-7 p.m. **AfroLatin Party** Zen Lounge, 7-10 p.m.	**M.A.G.I.C.: Masculinity and Gender Identity Conversation** The Wellness Co-op, 2-3 p.m. **Forza: The Samurai Sword Workout** North End Studio A, 6:30 p.m.	**Creative Writing Workshop** Studio 266, Burlington 10:30 a.m. **First Friday** Higher Ground, 9 p.m.
Saturday 7	**Sunday 8**	**Monday 9**	**Tuesday 10**	**Wednesday 11**
VCAM Video Production Orientation VCAM Studio, Burlington 11 a.m. **Chocolate Tasting** Lake Champlain Chocolates, 3 p.m.	**Nia With Linda: Martial Arts and Dance** South End Studio, 9-10 a.m. **Suicide Silence & Emmure** Higher Ground, 6 p.m.	**Trivia Night** Hotel Vermont, Burlington 7 p.m. **Magic Man** Higher Ground, 7 p.m.	**Tabletop Games for Teens & Adults** Fletcher Free Library, 5-7:45 p.m. **Swing Dance** Champlain Club, Burlington 7:30 p.m.	**Coffee Tasting** Maglianero Café, Burlington 12 p.m. **Peer Support Circle** The Wellness Co-op, Burlington 5-6 p.m.

THE DEFENDER

EDITORIAL

Dear Fox, no need to fear 'Frozen'

On Feb. 4, Fox & Friends aired a segment critiquing the blockbuster Disney-animated film "Frozen" because of how it may, according to Steve Doocy, empower girls "by turning our men into fools and villains."

I have several problems with this telecast.

First of all, full disclosure: I love Frozen. The wonderful music, the quality of the animation, even the uniqueness Idina Menzel's voice brings to the film – all of it, as I watched it for the first time with my host sister in Costa Rica last year, brought me back to my Disney-filled childhood where magic existed and good always triumphed over evil.

As the older of two sisters, I also deeply appreciate the portrayal of a sibling bond as true love, where laying down one's life for a sister has the same power as "true love's kiss."

Doocy goes on to bring in Penny Nance, president and CEO of Concerned Women for America, to talk about what kind of message it sends that the male characters in "Frozen" are "evil and cold and bumblers."

Though Nance ultimately allows that it is important to empower women, she asserts, "We don't have to empower women at the cost of tearing down men." Both she and Doocy hypothesize that Disney might defend their male portrayals by responding, "it's easier to make fun of men than women."

Finally, the two make the claim that there needs to be more "strong" male figures in movies like "Frozen" and advocate for the formation of "real men."

One of my first reactions after watching this clip was that it was obvious Doocy has not actually watched the film. To start, "Frozen" was released in the United States on Nov. 27, 2013 – one year, two months and eight days before Fox & Friends' telecast.

Also, if Doocy had seen "Frozen," he would know that the real embodiments of humor and "making fun or fool" are found in the characters of Anna and Olaf. Anna is the clumsy, socially awkward heroine struggling to find her place and true love, while Olaf provides comic relief in tense situations with mostly improvised lines.

The bottom line: ridiculing men is neither a recognizable nor a major focus of "Frozen."

But what I take issue with the most about their conversation is Nance's comment that it is not necessary "to empower women at the cost of tearing down men." In response, I would like to list some very popular and well-known classic Disney films that, in my opinion, both demeaned the idea that women could be independent creatures and villainized them.

Let's begin with the one that started it all: "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." Here we have "the fairest of them all" hiding from her jealous stepmother with seven men in the forest. When a huntsman spares her life, the evil queen comes back to finish the job, coaxing the un-knowing and non-critically thinking Snow into eating an apple that plunges her into a deep sleep.

And what is the only way to save her? True love's kiss.

Enter Cinderella, a gorgeous young woman with a lovely voice forced to clean and hide by her evil stepmother and stepsisters. Bippity-boppity-boo she's off to the ball in a pumpkin carriage and falls in love with the prince but leaves him before the clock strikes 12. Yet she remains captive in her servitude until her prince comes along and she reveals her true identity by bringing forth her glass slipper.

Finally, "Sleeping Beauty" tells the story of Princess Aurora, who falls in love with a handsome stranger in the woods. That same stranger, who happens to be a prince, must kiss her (there's true love's kiss again) to wake her out of a coma induced by pricking her finger on a spinning wheel as part of a curse cast by Maleficent, dubbed by many (including myself) the most malicious and terrifying of all Disney villains.

How do these movies, which contribute to the over-done damsel in distress narrative which preaches that a woman needs a man to be saved, provide any value to our young girls and women?

It is fruitless to pretend the purpose of "Frozen" was to knock down men. Those who pay attention to the film and truly appreciate its meaning will see that it demonstrates how women can save women and, in turn, save themselves, something that classics such as "Snow White," "Cinderella" and "Sleeping Beauty" in their timeless tales will never accomplish.

CARA CHAPMAN
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

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As the editorial staff of The Defender, we strive to accurately, professionally and ethically report the news affecting the lives of students and our community.

We as a staff take full responsibility for any errors; if you spot a mistake or have a complaint, please let us know.

We publish letters to the editor, as long as they are signed. Letters will be edited only for grammar, spelling, taste, and sometimes length.

Eye on the world

PHOTOS BY PAIGE LEAHY

Clockwise from top left: A glimpse down the center path of Hyde Park in London, one of the largest parks in the city; a look up the Eiffel Tower in Paris with views of the city's entirety and the Seine River; the London Eye brightens up the otherwise overcast, gray sky in the winter of England.

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COLUMNS

Are you there, God? It's me, a journalist

Paige Leahy
Managing Editor

On Dec. 25, The Wall Street Journal published an article by a Eric Metaxas, titled, "Science Increasingly Makes the Case for God," with a subhead of "The odds of life existing on another planet grow ever longer. Intelligent design, anyone?"

The article outlines how there are an immense amount of parameters necessary for life to even exist on Earth, in addition to the strict criterion deemed essential for the entire universe to exist at all.

"Today there are more than 200 known parameters necessary for a planet to support life—every single one of which must be perfectly met, or the whole thing falls apart," Metaxas wrote. "There's more. The fine-tuning necessary for life to exist on a planet is nothing compared with the fine-tuning required for the universe to exist at all."

With these points, Metaxas's overarching argument is that because of how improbable the circumstances are for not only life to exist on Earth, but for Earth, our solar system and the universe to exist at all, some kind of intelligent design, in this case God, had to have been involved in overseeing and planning the world in which we live.

"Just because the odds are small, it doesn't mean that there was something or someone overseeing it," said Paul Constantino, an assistant professor of biology at St. Michael's who specializes in evolutionary biology and human evolution.

What weakens Metaxas's argument is that he has no credentials to support his claims. His vast literary and television background cannot properly take the place of a doctorate in biology, physics or any field of science that may have given him some credit to write this article. This notion is again supported simply by glancing at the title of his latest book: "Miracles: What They Are, Why They Happen, and How They Can Change Your Life."

Additionally, while the article speaks of human existence, it leaves out one of the most relevant topics in the history of human beings: evolution, and how we came to be.

"People commonly have the misconception that all evolution is by chance, rather than actually building upon itself," Constantino said. "Evolution leads to more complex things over time; it is not by chance."

I am in no way denying the complexity of human beings and the universe; that would simply be absurd. What I am denying, and I think science would agree, is the belief that because of the intricacy of everything we are surrounded by on this planet and in our world, that it should be deemed necessary that someone or something out there had to have a role in the planning, design and execution of the universe and human life.

"Humans could have evolved just fine without any sort of divine intervention," Constantino said. "Looking at human behavior across the globe, there are plenty of acts that no God may want to claim credit for."

You cannot convince me that the vastness of our world was created with a being whose existence has no proof. I cannot be persuaded that the trees I breathe oxygen from, the animals that frolic in the rainforest, the entire human race was planned and executed in a mere seven days. Don't tell me this when hard evidence exists in accordance to the evolution of humans and the ongoing development of planet Earth can be seen with our own eyes.

Despite my strong viewpoints, I do respect others' beliefs in some kind of divine, supernatural force that may exist. However, neither I nor scientists can prove or deny a supernatural existence of some kind of creator being, and without this proof, I believe there is no reason for the world of science to be so heavily intertwined into Metaxas's dominantly religious argument.

"If it is within the natural world, then it should be able to be observed by science," Constantino said. "If it is supernatural, there is no way for science to address it."

"Science is about discovery, it's not about proving anything," said Alain Brizard, a professor of physics at St. Michael's. "Scientists love failure, because failure is an opportunity to discover something new."

I personally have no issue in choosing not to rely on a kind of God for all of the aspects in my life and on this Earth. I will not pray to an omnipresent being to save world hunger or resolve natural disasters, nor will I justify the vastness of the universe and our exquisitely detailed world with its entirety as simply the result of a miracle, as Metaxas tries to persuade us.

"The greatest miracle of all time, without any close seconds, is the universe," Metaxas wrote. "It is the miracle of all miracles, one that ineluctably points with the combined brightness of every star to something—or Someone—beyond itself."

While religion and the existence of a divine creator may make people feel more comfortable in their lives, I take comfort in the mystery of our lives, and the scientists who have provided our world with factual evidence,whose work I can physically see and understand.

"Gaps in our knowledge make scientists get up in the morning," Brizard said. "It's not a nightmare, because that's when the work is done. These gaps eventually get smaller, but some take much longer to fill, and that's what keeps us going."

Paige Leahy is a junior media studies, journalism and digital arts major. Contact her at pleahy@mail.smcvt.edu

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Excerpts from ADAPTING TO AMERICA

by Haley Clark

Trang Le

I met Trang Le at the international fair.

Trang is an international graduate student from Vietnam in the MATESOL (Masters in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) program at St. Michael's College.

"I'm a full-time student, so I can spend most of my time preparing for the lectures and doing all the reading and writing assignments," Trang said.

Trang brought up the interactions between Americans and their neighbors and contrasted them with the Vietnamese and their neighbors.

"All the people in my neighborhood [in Vietnam] play a very important role in my life; they are like my uncles, my aunts," Trang said. "We visit each other often. Even with my dad, he's sick, the neighbors will visit him and stay in the hospital with him. Yesterday I talked to a senior in psych and when we were talking we happened to discover that in America you rarely talk to your neighbors. During Halloween when I went trick or treat with kids in my neighborhood, the mother of the kids told me this may be the only day in the year that we talk to strangers," she added.

"In a lot of countries they have aunts and uncles and even neighbors as members of their families," said Mahmoud Arani, chair of the applied linguistics department. "We are very friendly and nice but we do not want to interfere with people's private life and do not want to intrude. Sometimes that can be wrongly interpreted as not being friendly."

I enjoyed talking with Trang, as she offered me insights into my own culture that I had not noticed before.

"The biggest lessons I have learned from life here are when I was in my country I had so many valuable things: family, friends, students the Vietnamese people." she said. "When I came here I started to realize how important they are to me. I will graduate in May 2015, so when I graduate what I want to do is go back and devote to my country. I feel a change in my attitude when I immerse myself with both American and international students. I started to realize that it doesn't matter who is right and who is wrong, the more important one is how to feel optimistic and active. The more important one in the moment is balance."

Toll roads ahead: net neutrality debate

By Alanna Moriarty
Arts/Columns Editor

How many hours per day do you spend online? If you're a college student, the answer is probably too many to count—likely even more time than you spend studying. If you're like me, constantly checking emails, browsing social networks and streaming music, then you're definitely going to be affected by the new Federal Communications Commission (FCC) debate over net neutrality.

Net neutrality is the idea that the Internet is an open arena that anyone can access, and any content provider can stream data through.

The Internet is, as of today, a democratic, laissez-faire place that provides equal opportunity for any business or website to reach Internet consumers. Large movie and television streaming services like Netflix can reach the public just as quickly and easily as small ones like Sockshare.

On Thursday, the FCC will determine whether to turn strict net neutrality guidelines into law, or to allow Internet service providers (ISPs) the ability to selectively speed up or slow down content for an extra charge.

"The way the Internet works is that your messages are all broken up into little packets and sent out over a network," said Greta Pangborn, an associate professor and the department chair of computer science and information services at St. Michael's. "Then all these pieces arrive at their destination, and get put back together."

Between the sender and the intended destination, information must pass through multiple routers (network devices that handle messages and information sent between computers). With net neutrality, Pangborn explained, the routers in the middle don't care who the sender or recipient are; they just pass along information as fast as they can without discrimination.

Pangborn described this process like that of the postal service: a sender drops his or her mail in a local post office, it's sent without being opened or read, delivered to "middleman" post offices or carriers, and then it arrives at its destination. Unless the sender pays extra for overnight shipping, his or her mail will go to the same place at the same pace as every other piece of mail.

Currently, content providers such as Netflix and Youtube cannot pay more to have their media "overnighted," or sent faster. ISPs, however, hope to introduce a practice like this in the near future.

"Your content providers are also some of the people who own parts of the network," Pangborn said. "And so that's one of the concerns. Does Comcast gain some advantage if they start slowing down Netflix's packets?"

According to George Anders in a January 2015 article for Business Insights, the premise of net neutrality is that ISPs "shouldn't offer preferential treatment to certain types of content. Instead, they should send everything to their customers as fast as they can manage. Nobody can pay your ISP for a 'fast lane' to your house. Carriers can't show favoritism toward any of their own services or applications."

This means that Comcast cannot deliver HBO Go to someone's house faster than Netflix, nor can it slow Netflix down. If current net neutrality guidelines were foregone or loosened, ISPs would be able to charge Netflix and other content providers extra for a "fast lane" to consumers' devices. Essentially, ISPs would be paid twice: once by customers to access the internet, and again by content providers in exchange for equal or faster download speeds.

Larry Lessig, professor of law and director of ethics at Harvard University, wrote in a February 2015 Huffington Post article that "nations that imposed neutrality-like rules beat us, in cost and quality. They have more competition, faster growth, and better access."

This comment raises concerns about innovation. In an open market, competition is not only encouraged, but necessary. Competition challenges content producers to make their product or service better than other businesses that may be trying to do the same.

> "If the telephone companies that built the first broadband network could discriminate, would Skype have happened? If the cable companies could discriminate, would YouTube have happened?"
>
> - Larry Lessig

Competition also provides incentive to be the first to bring something new to consumers, leading to smartphones, smartphone apps, independent news services, music and video streaming sites, and more. In his Business Insights article, Anders also notes that "nobody providing lawful content can be slowed or blocked."

This means that small business sites like Etsy can reach customers as fast as large corporations like Amazon. Emerging social media outlets like Tumblr and Ello, a Vermont-based advertisement-free Facebook alternative, have the same access to users as Facebook and Twitter.

"College students are more likely to be early adopters of a new service," Pangborn said. "What they're worried specifically about is something new coming out and not having the financial support and who knows what that will be."

In the the physical, off-line world, small businesses often have a more difficult time getting funding and attracting customers. They cannot afford flashy commercials or big print advertisements to pull people in. This can lead to financial struggles and the closing of a business, potentially ending a unique or useful service. If net neutrality ends, this could happen online as well.

"If the telephone companies that built the first broadband network (DSL) could discriminate, would Skype have happened?" Lessig wrote. "If the cable companies could discriminate, would YouTube have happened? Internet innovation is the story of outsiders building a better mouse trap, given a neutral platform to prove their ideas."

This isn't to say that ISPs should not have some control over their routers and what media their networks are transmitting. In fact, on the St. Michael's campus, we already do just that. Joe Pawlaczyk, the associate director of the data center, can monitor what networks have priority in different parts of campus.

"He runs our network," Pangborn said. "The network looks at the information packets coming onto campus and prioritizes them. Essentially, if you're working in a classroom, web traffic is more likely to be for homework, and more of our bandwidth should be used for that than for streaming media. In our dorms, the priority goes to streaming media, because the focus should be on entertainment in the dorms."

Now that the FCC is re-evaluating its net neutrality policy, Anders wrote, it is facing pressure to tighten the reins on an ISP's "reasonable network management." The question remains, then, what defines "reasonable." Would it be like what St. Michael's does, prioritizing certain types of content at specific times or in different places? Or would it be more like what ISPs hope to do, allowing them to charge some content providers more?

Net neutrality is an issue that will affect everyone who uses the Internet, especially college students. Whether it's accessing academic journals for research, or streaming Gilmore Girls from Netflix, college students are invariably tied to the Internet.

What would it be like if we were no longer able to easily access our favorite websites? What if something better popped up, but we were unable to reach it? Would the resulting lack of competition between content providers lead to less easy-to-use and useful websites? Is an open market really best for the Internet, or would a system like that of cable television work better?

These are all questions the FCC will wrestle with when it debates new policy changes on Thursday. If you would like to see the positions of your or other state representatives, you can do so at Battleforthenet.com/scoreboard. All three Vermont state representatives are in favor of preserving net neutrality.

As for me, I hope the Internet stays open and competitive. It's worked well for us thus far—much better than cable TV packages have. I appreciate that I can access both Netflix and Sockshare, without trading in speed or quality. Sometimes, Sockshare actually works better than Netflix and has a greater variety of TV shows and movies to choose from.

I like knowing that I can access any website at any time without sacrificing speed or quality. And I would like for it to stay that way.

Alanna Moriarty is a sophomore media studies, journalism and digital arts major. Contact her at amoriarty2@mail.smcvt.edu

Background players fuel men's basketball

Versatility, selflessness, leadership instrumental in success on the court

By Natalie Moore
Staff Writer

Cheers from fans grew in crescendo with every basket team captain Mike Thompson, '15, sunk in the second half of the men's basketball game on Feb 18.

Thompson led the Purple Knights to a win over Assumption, putting them in position to compete in the NE-10 tournament. The team will then have a shot to qualify for the NCAA tournament, an opportunity they missed last season, said redshirted sophomore Zaire Williams.

"We were in the same situation last year and came up short," Williams said.

Having lost no players after the 2013-2014 season gives the team an advantage over last year, as does having six seniors who have all been on the team for four years.

Among these veterans, seniors Mike Holton Jr., James Cambronne and Corey Crawford II stand out, leading the team in career points scored with 1666, 1200 and 1178, respectively.

These are the names that dominate both St. Michael's and local sports headlines. And with numbers like those, it is obvious why.

However, players who don't score as many points, but are instrumental in other aspects of the team, are often overlooked.

Mike Thompson typically doesn't lead the team in any one area, but is right behind the leaders in many statistical categories, both offensive and defensive.

"He's one of our best defenders," said Josh Meyer, head coach of the men's basketball team. "He's also a versatile offensive player."

PHOTO BY MARK YETTER

Dom Ditlefsen, '15, catches a pass in a men's basketball game against Assumption College on Feb. 18. Ditlefsen had four rebounds, two assists and two blocks in the 75-66 victory.

While he may have half as many career points as some of his teammates, Thompson proved in the game against Assumption that he is not to be overlooked. He finished the game with 17 points, five rebounds and eight out of 10 free-throws.

And it's not just skill-wise that Thompson is an asset to the team.

"He does a great job of talking to the younger guys and teaching them, especially during practice," Crawford said.

"He's a team-first guy," Meyer said. "Every game we're really relying on him."

Like Thompson, Dom Ditlefsen tends to fly under the radar. Watching him on the court, it is obvious why. Whenever the 6' 4" senior gets the ball, the first thing he does is look around to see where his teammates are. If someone is in a better position than he is, he passes.

"He doesn't do anything he knows he can't do," Crawford said. "He doesn't try to do too much but doesn't do too little."

Ditlefsen is lauded by his coach and teammates for his versatility.

"Dom is one of our best defenders," Meyer said. "He is a great passer, and he shoots the ball really well."

"In times of adversity, he's great at saying the right thing," Meyer added.

Ditlefsen, who led the state of Oregon in points scored his senior year of high school, is sixth on the team in scoring this year. Nonetheless, he makes up for it in other aspects, even contributing a pair of blocks in the Assumption game.

"They make their teammates better on both ends of the floor," Meyer said of both Ditlefsen and Thompson.

Although he doesn't get as much playing time as his fellow seniors, Mauri Boschetti, '15, has a lot in common with Thompson and Ditlefsen.

"He is extremely selfless, and helps us so much on a day-to-day basis," Meyer said. "He's a great person, teammate and leader."

Furthermore, playing fewer minutes doesn't mean Boschetti isn't a leader for younger players. Colin Richey, '18, the team's only first-year, said he looks up to the senior.

"He gives the other guys a challenge," Richey said. "I've had six seniors to help me every step of the way."

"We know them as being the most unselfish players on the court," Williams said of Boschetti, Ditlefsen and Thompson.

These three versatile players, along with three scoring powerhouses, really have the ability to make plays, Meyer said.

"They have seen a lot of different types of situations and are able to navigate them because of experience," he added.

With the NE-10 tournament approaching, time is almost up for the six seniors. And with each of them playing a vital role, the ball really is in their court.

This week's Scoreboard

Women's Basketball
Feb. 18: SMC 54
Assumption 75
Feb. 21: SMC 68
S. New Hampshire 64

Men's Basketball
Feb. 18: SMC 75
Assumption 66
Feb. 21: SMC 52
S. New Hampshire 74

Swimming and Diving
Feb. 13-14: NEISDA Championships
M: 5th/12
W: 4th/20

Men's Ice Hockey
Feb. 14: SMC 2
Babson 3
Feb. 21: SMC 4
Assumption 1
Feb. 28: NE-10 Finals
SMC vs. Saint Anselm
7pm Cairns Arena

Women's Ice Hockey
Feb. 21: SMC 0
Salve Regina 3
Feb. 28: ECAC Semifinal
SMC vs. Franklin Pierce
4pm Cairns Arena

Skiing
Feb. 13-14: Middlebury Carnival
SMC 9th/16

KNIGHT WRITER:
A look at the 2015 MLB season

By Joseph Humes
Sports Editor

This week, pitchers and catchers across Major League Baseball are reporting for Spring Training. In the coming weeks, empty ballparks across Florida, Texas, and Arizona will be flooded with players, fans and media attention.

Prospective players for the coming year will be competing for spots on their final rosters and fans will be scouting out which teams will live out their dreams in 2015.

As we welcome the first days of the new MLB season, fans across the country are excited and nervous to see what it will bring. For several reasons, this season will be different than many before it. However, it will be just like any other year in many respects as well. Home runs will crack off bats, jerseys will be covered in dirt and 4,860 games will be played.

One of the biggest stories of this spring and one of the most publicized stories in recent MLB history, is the unceremonious return of Alex Rodriguez to the New York Yankees. In 2013, Rodriguez was suspended by the MLB for 162 games for using performance-enhancing drugs and was noticeably absent for the entire 2014 season.

During this time, as Rodriguez processed his many mistakes and prepared to make a comeback, baseball fans and enthusiasts everywhere condemned him as a dark mark on the face of Major League Baseball. His return will not be taken lightly, especially not by Yankees fans, and all eyes will be on number 13 as he tries to revive a career marked by magnificence and tragedy.

Additionally, the 2015 MLB season will be different than the last 16 seasons because Bud Selig will not be the league's commissioner. A lawyer named Rob Manfred has replaced Selig, who had been at the helm since 1998, helping propel the MLB into the new millennium.

Manfred is not well known, but is expected to breathe life into a commissioner's office that has often been criticized for its indecisive appearance and lack of action.

The new commissioner has lofty goals, such as drastically speeding up baseball games and expanding the scope of instant replay. Manfred undoubtedly will have his work cut out for him when the season begins in April.

After the excitement last season, which ended dramatically with a "David and Goliath" showdown that saw the San Francisco Giants defeat the Kansas City Royals for their third championship in five years, fans and aficionados around the MLB world are getting prepared for 2015.

With a new commissioner, troves of unknown talent, and the high-profile return of Alex Rodriguez, this season surely will not disappoint.